



News From

# JUDY BIGGERT

CONGRESSWOMAN ♦ 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ♦ ILLINOIS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, September 27, 2001**

**CONTACT: Jeff Trexel**  
**(202) 225-3515**

## **BIGGERT ANNOUNCES \$501,855 IN TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO EXPAND LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME ILLINOIS RESIDENTS**

*Federal funds to finance modernization of legal aid*

**Clarendon Hills, Illinois** – U.S. Representative Judy Biggert (R-13<sup>th</sup>), along with Legal Services Corporation (LSC), today announced \$501,855 in statewide federal technology grants aimed at improving access to justice for low-income Illinois residents who cannot afford legal representation.

"These grants make it easier for low-income Illinois residents to get legal assistance," said Biggert. "Ultimately they will help consumers victimized by fraud, spouses enduring domestic violence and families wrongfully evicted from their homes."

Awarded to the Illinois Technology Center for Law and the Public Interest and various other legal services groups in Illinois, the grant will finance development of a statewide Web site, [www.illinioslawhelp.org](http://www.illinioslawhelp.org), and provide online training tools. The Web site will include a "resource center" providing a brief and pleading library, message boards, list serves and calendars, and in the future will offer automated forms and pleadings to file in court. The training tools will allow *pro bono* lawyers outside urban cities to conveniently get legal services training online, thus making it easier to recruit them to help low-income residents.

"This grant is the federal government's acknowledgement that Illinois is on the cutting edge in providing access to the courts for its low-income residents," said Mauricio Vivero, Vice President of Legal Services Corporation, the Congressionally chartered nonprofit agency that oversees federally funded legal aid. "Only 20 percent of poor people in the state are currently getting the assistance they need when faced with a civil legal problem. This marriage of technology and the justice system will help ensure that more Illinois residents who need legal help get it."

Representatives of the Illinois Bar Association, the Illinois Center for Law and the Public Interest and the LSC-funded Prairie State Legal Services also participated in a press conference today to announce the grants.

1213 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1313  
(202) 225-3515

115 W. 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 100  
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514  
(630) 655-2052

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/BIGGERT

###

1213 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1313  
(202) 225-3515

[WWW.HOUSE.GOV/BIGGERT](http://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/BIGGERT)

115 W. 55<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 100  
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514  
(630) 655-2052